

The Just Shall Live by Faith

(with the Story of Habakkuk)

One of the most well known verses in the Bible is, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” He gave His Son as a sacrifice because He loved us so much. Once we receive His love we love others like He loved us. We love one another and those who do love have eternal life. Love causes unity — those who can't get along don't have eternal life. He gives us the power to love and to be friends with each other. When we hold our hands up we're saying there's no division (dissension) among us. We're one with God and one another. Our sins are removed and there's no longer separation from God or each other. We're friends so we make friends.

Do you know what He is searching for? Those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. I want to worship Him in spirit and in truth (not just in spirit, but in truth). He searched and found us and now we're able to love one another in spirit and truth.

We're gathered in His name. We can lift up our hands because there's no dissension between us. If there is we can't lift our hands.

Racham: Our Father gave His only begotten Son because He loved the world so much. When someone hears that in his heart he hears faith and he'll do anything for Him. That's what it means to be justified by faith. That's why we don't talk anyone into staying with us if they don't see. If His glory is revealed to someone he'll want to stay. He'll want to give up his life and we'll take him to the waters of baptism.

Worship means to speak about His worth. Not until we see His worth can we give Him praise. Worship means “worth-ship”. This is the foundation that's being laid. No one with any sense would build a big building on top of a cracked foundation! Those of us now in this location have to be perfectly united, without any dissension. Our love has to be perfect like our Master's love is. His love isn't imperfect. There's no building without the foundation. We're being made perfect. We're on that foundation. People will be built upon us. We can't fool

ourselves. If we're not built upon our Master we can see how fragile our foundation is. There is no way we can start the race with anyone among us like that. They will be removed.

The Story of Habakkuk

We are going to get to know a wonderful person. He was a boy born in Israel and his parents gave him a special name because the people were bad who lived at that time and his parents wanted to see a change. They wanted their son to be a prophet, someone who would exhort people, who would love people and draw them together. Sometimes prophets can be cold and hard, but they named their son, Habakkuk, which means to embrace one another in love.

Habakkuk grew up in Israel where everyone worshipped idols. King Hezekiah was king and it was the last chance for Israel to change. The king became mortally ill and cried out to YHWH to heal him. YHWH heard his cries and healed him, but because the king's heart was proud, he didn't praise YHWH for what he had done for him and something bad happened.

*Isaiah the prophet was around at that time and the king admired him so much. He was saying to the people, "You need to change and turn your hearts back to YHWH. You can't keep doing what you are doing." But they didn't listen to Isaiah and when king Hezekiah died, his son, Manasseh, took over his kingdom, and he was the most evil king Israel ever had. He **killed** Isaiah and rebuilt altars to the false gods!*

Habakkuk knew that there was trouble coming. One day the burden of YHWH came upon him and it was like a weight on his back. He told the people, "Disaster is going to come!" (He knew there was big trouble coming.) "There is a judgment coming. YHWH will come like a scouring pad to clean Israel if you don't change your ways." Manasseh had already killed a lot of people and Habakkuk told him, "You have provoked YHWH to anger!" But the people were grumbling against Habakkuk and they didn't want to listen to him. They kept on getting together and worshipping their false gods. He stood up in the midst of the people and saw trouble everywhere. He cried, "YHWH why don't you come? It is terrible everywhere." He couldn't even stand up against the evil he saw all around him. His bones were shaking because he knew YHWH was going to send the enemy to punish the people. He cried out to YHWH, "The people are still making idols! Don't they know the terrible thing that is going to happen to them? The enemy that is coming is so strong. They have horses like leopards, strong and fast. But my God is my strength!" Habakkuk was really scared for what was coming upon Israel. He knew that anyone not upright would fall — only the just would be saved (those who were living by faith).

Habakkuk's words were powerful words and they went echoing through town. They went right to the ears of the apostle, Paul, and he wrote them down and sent them to the Romans, the Galatians, and the Hebrews. He knew Habakkuk was an important man, a prophet who heard from YHWH.

Habakkuk, because the burden of YHWH was upon him, stood back up on the wall and continued speaking a warning to the people, but they didn't listen to this prophet of YHWH. "We don't want to hear your words," they said! Habakkuk knew it was finished. He said to them, "There are five big disasters coming because you won't turn to YHWH." But the people just yawned and didn't listen to him.

Habakkuk went outside of the city. He was so scared because he knew a great disaster was coming for sure. He could see it coming right over the horizon. But the people were saying among themselves, "What's he so worried about?" Habakkuk sat down under a tree and a song came to him. We still have that song. It is a beautiful song and it speaks of how great our Father is. Habakkuk knew everything was going to be burned down. Everywhere he looked he could see the sheep and everything was okay — the corn was nice in the fields — but in the eyes of Habakkuk he could see the sheep and cows slaughtered and a draught coming. There would be no more blessing for the land. He sang, "YHWH, You are great... And even though the fig tree doesn't blossom and there be no fruit on the vine, yet will I rejoice in YHWH... The enemy is coming and their god is their strength, but my strength is in YHWH. He is my Sovereign, my strength."

He wrote that song, but the people didn't like it. But he knew that over the horizon judgment was coming for their selfish lives. He said, "I will trust in the name of my God." He knew only the upright would be saved. And the disaster that Habakkuk saw came upon the land and the people were punished for worshipping their idols and not heeding the words of the prophet of YHWH.

These words of Habakkuk were saved down through history. People who live by faith live by this song. YHWH's people have been singing this same song that Habakkuk sang down through the ages ever since. Habakkuk sang it and YHWH's people sing it too.

The just shall live by faith. *To Live* — to be born again, to live after we receive faith and come into newness of life. We're the just and the just shall live. *Chayah* means to live, to *stay alive*, to be preserved, to flourish and enjoy life and live in happiness, continually being animated by faith. By faith we are *Chayah*. That's how we endure to the very end — by faith. Faith comes by hearing what we have to do to live and be obedient.

Rom 1:17 — We live by faith, every word that our Father speaks. If we don't heed *every* word, we'll be cut off. But we'll be preserved if we live by faith. Isn't it wonderful we can live

by faith? (A lot of people have been cut off because they don't live by faith.) Whatever we do without faith is sin. Those who will endure until the end will endure by faith.

Habakkuk means affectionate embrace, ardent embrace, someone who embraces another — a hugger. The prophet *Habakkuk* is someday going to write something plainly. He'll have a vision. Hab 2:2-3 — It is prophetic. It hasn't come about yet, but it will. I don't know what it is you can write down and put on a sign and run with it that will be short and precise and will lodge in people's minds and hearts. But it's going to come about, although we have to wait for it to happen. It's for an appointed time. We need to pray for it to come about.

(Our Châmite brother, James Huggins, received the name Habakkuk — may he be one who fulfills the words of the prophet.)

The faith we live by comes by hearing, so we have to be hearers of the Word.

(In the Breaking of Bread)

Walking in a Manner Worth of Him

1 Cor 11:27-29; Col 1:10 — We see our God giving us this word of instruction because He loves us so much and wants us to be able to endure until the end. We need to walk in a manner worthy of Him. (We *can* walk in a manner unworthy of Him.) We know that *worthy* means in a way that is fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit (compatible, comparable to Him). How did we first become disciples? Faith (grace) came to us and we responded. We gave up our life for His life, everything that would keep us from being His disciple so that we could be worthy (fitting, compatible) of Him. If we eat His body and drink His blood in an unworthy manner, we'll be guilty of eating and drinking judgment because we aren't discerning the Body of Messiah. If we can really discern, appreciate and recognize the Body of Messiah, of course we're going to walk in a manner worthy of Him. We're expected to be able to judge ourselves rightly.

1 Cor 11:18 — Paul says, “First of all, when you come together in your *qahal* (church meeting), I hear there are divisions among you.” One of the worst things that can happen is that the Body would be divided. This proves who is in the Body and who isn't. Verse 19 — There must be factions so that those who are approved may be recognized among you. Those who

cause factions are those who haven't been born of the spirit. Those who are approved are apparent and they stand out — they cause peace. Those who cause factions are worthless and they are self-condemned. They do everything but bring peace.

There's recognized brothers and sisters here who are breaking bread in a worthy manner. Paul talked about them being recognized among their brothers. I know you want to be those who are approved. Someday we'll have nothing more to do with those who cause factions and divisions in the Body (Titus 3:10-11). There'll be no one who causes divisions in the foundation. The Scriptures teach us not to be divisive people. This is the reason why some of you are weak, sick, and some have died. *Worthy* doesn't necessarily mean whether we did good or bad, but it means whether or not we recognized His worth. If we really see His worth we wouldn't dare come in here without judging ourselves so we'll receive true forgiveness — that's why we come here. We've got to carry out a self-examination so we won't have a premature death. It's a word of love to us, not a word of condemnation. If it's a word of condemnation it's because you're near to being cast out. But it's a word of love to those who are being approved.

Paul wrote these things to the Corinthian church, but they ceased to exist. The way they were actually caused them to die under judgment — they destroyed themselves. Most of them were cut off and only a few remained. That's how it was and we can't get that way. The first church destroyed itself. We have to profit by what happened to them because it was recorded for us as a warning (for our instruction, for the ends of the age to come). We have everything we need to overcome so the same thing won't come upon us. Like the church in Sardis — they were probably the most cut-off, but they kept coming to the breaking of bread.

Paul knew that a great falling-away would have to happen before the man of lawlessness would come — the great apostasy. The first church would have to be in total apostasy for that man of lawlessness to come into power and make a magnificent civilization on the earth. Restoration is another thing and it will be happening simultaneously with the man of lawlessness coming into power. The Stone Kingdom is for the destruction of that magnificent civilization. We are the Stone Kingdom, the restoration of the church. It's according to how worthy we are of

Him. It says to make sure you walk in a manner worthy of Him (compatible, comparable, fully pleasing in every way). If we know we haven't been this way there is a sacrifice made for us. It's not just whether we've done good or bad, but if we see His life and discern the Body not walking in dullness. He wants us to have self-judgment.

Jude 1:10 — They came in like unreasoning animals without any fear, not judging themselves. We can't walk to a love feast like an unreasoning animal, as beasts without a proper fear and not judging ourselves. The first church was like this, but we don't have to be. We don't have to be cut off or have a premature death if we keep our conscience pure.

Jeremiah ben Racham: I'm thankful that I belong to a people who have a chance to fulfill our Master's purpose on the earth — the people He's helping. I want to give myself to Him and go to Him for grace because I know that He always gives to me and helps me.

It is awesome what we are commanded to do, but His grace is sufficient and we can do all things through our Master who strengthens us. His grace is more powerful than anything else. So no one will have an excuse at the judgment because grace is there for us no matter what we are going through.

1 Tim 2:8 — “I want the men in every place (locality) to pray lifting up hands without wrath or dissension.” Christianity is full of dissension. Just think, if we had 15 or 20 clusters in Boston and each cluster had 300 people in it. That's a lot of people. But He said for all men to lift up holy hands without wrath or dissention (a difference of opinion). That's a phenomenon. It's impossible; there's no way you can fake it. It's impossible to do apart from our Master Yahshua. Christianity didn't do it and they still aren't doing it. Each and every one of us has got to do it! If there were 1,000 people here in Boston and I had a difference of opinion with you, our prayers wouldn't be answered. And we want our prayers to be answered.

Seeing to it that No One Misses Grace

We are all responsible to see to it that no one misses grace — no one left out. This is everyone's job, every day. The greatest thing we can do is to consider how we can encourage

each other — be watchmen. I wish everyone could know how important he is. If we can't encourage our brother, we're dead parts of the Body. We should be exhorting others (bringing them near, calling on them to be in tune). We know when something is off. We know who are approved and recognized among us, don't we? We go to our brother and exhort him, love him... Think what love would do! We can do it, we all have this responsibility. It causes the growth of the Body.

Don't think that you're so important that all you do is build the booths in the cafe. Our Master is counting on us. He entrusted us with His Holy Spirit so we could be a part of the Body, not tearing down but building each other up — not discouraging, but encouraging one another daily. How many times have you sat down and considered how to encourage (stimulate) one another? Have you ever considered, pondered on this, given thought to this? How many of you have ever obeyed this command? Heb 10:24 — How many have actually consciously obeyed this? This is a commandment. What if we did it every day (instead of a few times in our lifetime)? What a difference it would make! Imagine what would happen! Even if you could just find one person that you needed to exhort, draw near, rescue, save. We can spiritually heal by our words.

Let's take the cup and call on His name, invoking Him and giving Him thanks. This is what pleases Him. We can call on His name like we did when we first called Him Sovereign. No one can say, "Yahshua is Sovereign" without the Holy Spirit. If we really say that and recognize Him, He'll recognize us in heaven.